

Earthquake Update

The Nisqually Earthquake of Feb. 28, with a magnitude of 6.8, is Washington's most expensive and widespread disaster ever, according to state and federal officials. Cost estimates for damage to public infrastructures alone are calculated at \$250 million.

The total federal disaster recovery costs are now estimated at \$322 million, not including damage to federal highways and roads. Washington residents registering for disaster aid reached a record 12,148, surpassing the previous high of 11,998 from the floods of 1996.

President George W. Bush's major-disaster declaration means twenty counties will be eligible for disaster assistance programs. Inspectors have completed 14,847 damage verifications in the declared counties, and \$28.5 million in federal aid has been approved to help Washington residents and businesses after the earthquake.

Residents and business owners who sustained uninsured losses in the affected counties may apply for federal disaster aid by calling FEMA's hotline at 1-800-462-9029.

The domed Capitol Building would have experienced catastrophic damages but was protected by the seismic upgrades undertaken in 1949, 1965 and 1976. There is, however, damage: cracks in the dome, several columns both inside and outside are askew, and several stones have dislodged on one colonnade buttress.

The House of Representatives is temporarily conducting business in the John L. O'Brien office building across the street from the Capitol Building. Next year, the House chambers will move temporarily to the Pritchard Library facility while repairs and renovations are being made.



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From the Desk of Representative Kathy Lambert

Dear friends & neighbors,

Our natural resources in Washington are an essential part of the quality of life we all enjoy. From the beaches to the mountains to the desert, our diverse environment plays a prominent role in attracting visitors, residents and businesses to our state. It's also the reason ours is one of the most beautiful places to live in the country.

We strive for clean air and water. We all enjoy and benefit from Washington's many natural resources. And we all suffer when those resources are abused or not managed properly.

We must take steps to protect our state's natural resources so that future generations may also share in its beauty.

In the Legislature, I am supporting salmon recovery policies that improve habitat, monitor harvest, provide for local participation, and decrease state bureaucracy. I am fighting for an adequate supply of clean drinking water that uses the best scientific approach to improve and enforce water quality.

There are resources mentioned in this newsletter which I hope you can use to help in your recycling and conservation efforts.

If you have any questions about the issues being addressed in Olympia, please give me a call.

Sincerely, *Kathy Lambert*



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Keeping
Washington
Beautiful...

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Paper Recycling Q & A

How much paper do Americans recycle each year?
A full 45 percent of all the paper Americans used in 1999 was recovered for recycling. That's over 47 million tons of newspapers, boxes, office paper, magazines, cereal and cracker boxes, paper bags, and many other products you use every day.

What kinds of products are made from recycled paper?
Recycled paper is often made into the same grade of paper that it was originally. For example, most newspapers are made into new newspapers and corrugated cardboard boxes are made into new boxes. Mixed papers can be made into a variety of paper products including cereal boxes, newspapers, and paper towels. Of the paper recovered in the U.S., 81 percent is recycled into new products by American paper mills. About 16 percent is exported to foreign markets for recycling, and the rest is used domestically for products such as insulation, molded packaging, hydro-mulch, compost, and kitty litter.

What paper products can be recycled?
Virtually all clean paper is recyclable. It is important, however, to keep paper free from contaminants such as food, adhesives, wax, and glass.

How do I know if a product contains recycled paper?
Products that contain recycled paper will often be marked with the recycling symbol. In addition to the symbol, there is usually a specific claim as to the amount of recovered paper fiber the product contains. For example, the symbol may be accompanied by text that reads "50% total recovered fiber" or "100% recycled fiber."

How does recycling paper help the environment?
First, every ton of paper recovered for recycling is a ton that doesn't go to the landfill. Second, recycling paper conserves natural resources. While U.S. papermakers practice sustainable forestry to ensure that working forests used for fiber are promptly replanted, they also want to reuse as much fiber as possible.



Courtesy of the American Forest & Paper Association, Inc., www.afandpa.org.

Keeping Washington Beautiful

Conservation and Recycling Resources on the Web

National Recycling Coalition

www.nrc-recycle.org
The NRC is dedicated to the advancement and improvement of recycling by providing education, training and outreach services to its members in order to conserve resources and benefit the environment.

Planet Protectors Club

www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids.htm
The Environmental Protection Agency's Web site for children is a great place for grade school students to visit when doing research for school projects or just to better understand environmental issues.

Washington Energy Facts

How Washington electricity is generated: *(estimated megawatts)*

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Hydropower (WA sites) | 58.4% |
| Hydropower (WA/OR sites) | 21.0% |
| Coal | 7.3% |
| Natural gas | 5.9% |
| Nuclear | 5.4% |
| Wood residue, etc. | 2% |
| Other | 1.9% |

From the Northwest Power Planning Council

Utility Systems Cost Comparison

| Pacific Northwest Utilities - ranked by Average Overall System Cost | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Utility | Avg. Residential Cost - cents/kWh | Avg. Commercial Cost - cents/kWh | Avg. Industrial Cost - cents/kWh | Avg. Overall System Cost - cents/kWh |
| Grant County PUD | 3.58 | 3.00 | 2.03 | 2.53 |
| Tacoma Power | 4.46 | 4.57 | 3.01 | 3.56 |
| Seattle City Light | 4.27 | 3.72 | 3.45 | 3.87 |
| Clark County PUD | 4.63 | 3.58 | 2.35 | 3.97 |
| Snohomish County PUD | 5.05 | 4.31 | 2.94 | 4.47 |
| Avista Energy | 4.93 | 5.35 | 3.55 | 4.94 |
| Portland General Electric | 6.07 | 5.05 | 3.70 | 5.22 |
| Puget Sound Energy | 6.04 | 6.20 | 4.59 | 5.84 |



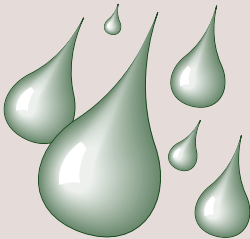
Rep. Lambert addresses the House in their temporary chambers because of the earthquake.

Water Facts

A drought was formally declared in March for Washington state. Listed below are some key facts for better understanding what the region is experiencing:

- Water supplies for virtually all of Washington are projected to be 65 percent of normal or less for April through September 2001.
- Many believe this drought is shaping up to be the worst one the state has experienced since 1977.
- The state's snow pack is between 50 to 60 percent of average for this time of year.
- The flow on Columbia River for April through September is expected to be less than 57 percent of average.
- Our water resources are stretched between competing, yet important needs:

- Agriculture
- Salmon
- Business use
- Residential use
- River navigation
- Hydropower generation



- Legislation is being considered that would help reduce the backlog of thousands of water-rights requests awaiting approval.